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TO: FBIS/LONDON. 4

RYBAT 4

REF: A. FBIS/LONDON 24698

B. FBIS/LONDON 23833

C. FBIS/LONDON 24590

D. STATE 098132

E. FBIS 10464 4

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1. PLS PASS TO JOHN RAE: IN LINE WITH THE GOAL OF PROVIDING INCREASED COVERAGE OF THE MUSLIM WORLD, WE ARE VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF ENTERING A CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE BBC MONITORING SERVICE TO PROVIDE MONITORS AND RELATED SUPPORT IN CAVERSHAM. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO HANDLE THE MATERIAL WE HOPE TO MONITOR IN PAKISTAN AND RELAY TO THE UK FOR PROCESSING. ALTHOUGH YOU AND I TOUCHED ON THIS SOMEWHAT DURING MY VISIT LAST MONTH, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO APPROACH YOU IN ANY CONCRETE TERMS UNTIL NOW, SINCE THE SPECIFICS OF THE PROJECTED COVERAGE PLAN WERE NOT DEVELOPED. THIS PLAN IS NOW COMPLETED AND WILL BE POUCHED TO

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LONDON ON 18 APRIL. 4

2. A CRITICAL REQUIREMENT BEFORE SITTING DOWN AND WORKING OUT A DETAILED ARRANGEMENT WITH YOU IS, OF COURSE, OBTAINING THE NECESSARY POLITICAL APPROVALS. WE HAVE SUBMITTED REQUESTS FOR THIS THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE CHANNELS AND EXPECT A RESPONSE IN A FEW WEEKS. 4

3. I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE [] VISIT LONDON WITHIN A FEW WEEKS TO DISCUSS OUR OVERALL PLANS, AND THE DETAILS OF A POSSIBLE CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT, AND RELATED ISSUES WITH YOU. WE ARE UNDER CONSIDERABLE TIME CONSTRAINT TO IMPLEMENT OUR INCREASED COVERAGE PLAN; FUNDS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO US BUT MUST BE OBLIGATED BY 30 SEPTEMBER. PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS AGREE-ABLE TO YOU. 4

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4. FOR [] AS NOTED AND INDICATED IN REF 3 ABOVE, WE ARE INDEED VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN CONTRACTUAL OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT WITH BBC FOR HANDLING LONDON END OF ISLAMABAD MONITORING PROJECT. AS FURTHER NOTED IN REFERENCE THE NEXT STEP WAS TO HAVE FCS WORK UP DETAILED GUIDANCE ON NUMBER OF CASTS TO BE COVERED AND

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LANGUAGES INVOLVED. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO MAKING ANY CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO THE BBC, IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO ACQUIRE STATE DEPARTMENT AND HOST GOVERNMENT APPROVALS TO ESTABLISH A TECHNICAL MONITORING OPERATION IN PAKISTAN. A CABLE SIMILAR TO REF D HAS BEEN SENT TO AMBASSADOR HUMMEL IN ISLAMABAD OUTLINING OUR PROPOSAL AND SOLICITING HIS ASSISTANCE. THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATIONS IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS AND WE PLAN TO DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS WITH HIM AT THAT TIME. THUS, WE EXPECT THAT BY THE TIME OF VISIT IN MID-MAY WE WILL HAVE A PRETTY GOOD READING ON OUR PROPOSAL. ~~OPS WILL BE RESPONDING TO THE SPECIFICS OF STAFFING RAISED IN REFS A AND C.~~ IN DISCUSSING CONTENTS OF STATE 098132 WITH THE EMBASSY, PLEASE ADVISE THEM THAT OUR PREFERRED PLAN IS TO CONTRACT THE PROJECT, TO INCLUDE STAFFING WITH THE BBC, BUT AS A HEDGE AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS NOT MATERIALIZING WE FELT WE HAD TO INCLUDE REQUEST FOR THE NINE NON-STAFF POSITIONS. THE STAFF POSITIONS ARE OF MOST CONCERN TO COM AND WILL BE REQUIRED WHETHER WE CONTRACT TO BBC OR NOT. RVW 15 APR 10 DRV C9C15.43 BY ALL

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